

This bill does many things. Most apparently, it creates new national service corps that will enlist the help of our people to address specific areas of national need, including education, energy efficiency, access to health care, economic opportunity for the disadvantaged and disaster relief. It also encourages individuals and nonprofit groups to come up with new and innovative ways to encourage volunteerism and to use the help of volunteers effectively. In addition, it enlists the help of the private sector in addressing important needs in our Nation and community.

There are a number of provisions in this bill that I believe will be of interest particularly to those of us we ascribe to conservative principles. For example, it will benefit thousands of faith-based and religious organizations throughout the country—they are eligible to participate in virtually every new program in the bill. It also preserves a very significant role for State governments at every step. Like many of my colleagues, I would like to see individuals, churches and communities do more and have the Government do less. While this bill does create new Government programs, the programs are specifically designed to foster this type of volunteer spirit and alleviate the need for bloated Government programs throughout Washington to accomplish the same goals.

Senator KENNEDY and I are committed to ensuring that this bill receives broad, bipartisan support, not only among those in Congress, but among the American people as well. Toward that end, Senator KENNEDY and I have agreed that, when this bill is considered in the HELP Committee, which is chaired by the gentleman from Massachusetts, we will work with Members of both parties to offset the spending in this bill and ensure that it is budget neutral. I think we have all heard the cries from our constituents for more fiscal responsibility and discipline in Congress. While this bill does authorize some spending, our commitment to offset these costs will ensure that it will not add to the Federal deficit.

Senator KENNEDY and I have also introduced the Incentive to Serve Tax Act as a companion piece to the Serve America Act. This bill would provide tax incentives to encourage companies to “donate” their employees’ time to charitable service through employer-directed projects. Specifically, the bill would provide companies a tax credit equal to 25 percent of the compensation paid to an employee who performs at least 160 hours of a specified charitable service.

For example, one company presently has a program to provide managerial and educational workers to an underdeveloped school system. This tax incentive would encourage this company to provide even more such service and encourage other companies to utilize their employees with various skills and

knowledge to target specific areas that need to be addressed in the communities where those workers live and work. By doing so, everyone benefits.

These two bills, I believe, represent efforts that all Members can get behind. As we saw at the Service Nation Summit last night, the Presidential candidates from both parties have expressed their support for this bill and for expanding service opportunities nationwide. Indeed, I think that they both recognize that an investment in the generosity and ingenuity of the American people is a pretty safe bet. I encourage all my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a letter of support be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be placed in the RECORD, as follows:

SEPTEMBER 11, 2008.

Senator ORRIN HATCH,
Hart Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR ORRIN: Thank you for all of your work on the Serve America Act and your continued leadership on service issues. I am thrilled to be a partner with you on this critical legislation to expand domestic and international service opportunities for Americans of all ages.

I’m confident that together we will win broad, bipartisan support for this legislation in the new Congress. I am grateful for your commitment to work together to ensure the necessary funding to implement these initiatives and existing service programs. I am committed to working with you to achieve these goals while working within budget constraints and ensuring that all the spending in the bill is paid for with adequate offsets. It will require that the new Administration and new Congress make tough choices, but I think we can both agree that the benefits that will flow to those volunteering and those served will be worth it.

I am sorry that I cannot join you in New York for the National Summit and as always you’ll represent our cause well. I look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure that all Americans have the opportunity to serve their communities and the nation, while tackling some of the greatest challenges of our day.

Sincerely,

EDWARD M. KENNEDY.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 659—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 27, 2008, AS ALCOHOL AND DRUG ADDICTION RECOVERY DAY

Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mrs. CLINTON) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 659

Whereas treatment and long-term recovery from substance use disorders can offer a renewed outlook on life for those who are addicted and their family members;

Whereas more than 23,000,000 people in the United States struggle with substance use disorders;

Whereas people who receive treatment for substance use disorders can lead more pro-

ductive and fulfilling lives, personally and professionally;

Whereas studies have consistently found that treatment is essential for people to be successful in their paths of recovery;

Whereas real stories of long-term recovery can inspire others to ask for help and improve their own lives, the lives of their families, and the entire community;

Whereas it is critical that we educate our community members that substance use disorders are treatable chronic diseases, and that by reaching out to those who suffer from these disorders we can improve the quality of life for the entire community;

Whereas, to help achieve this goal, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependency, the Partnership for a Drug-Free America, and A&E Television Networks, along with thousands of people from across the country, will hold a Recovery Rally on the Brooklyn Bridge and in City Hall Park in New York City on September 27, 2008; and

Whereas the Recovery Rally will be part of National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 27, 2008, as Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Day; and

(2) calls upon the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate programs, activities, and ceremonies.

SENATE RESOLUTION 660—CONDEMNING ONGOING SALES OF ARMS TO BELLIGERENTS IN SUDAN, INCLUDING THE GOVERNMENT OF SUDAN, AND CALLING FOR BOTH A CESSATION OF SUCH SALES AND AN EXPANSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS EMBARGO ON ARMS SALES TO SUDAN

Mr. NELSON of Florida (for himself, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. BROWNBAC, Mr. CASEY, Mrs. CLINTON, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. HATCH, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. KERRY, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. SNOWE, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. COLEMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 660

Whereas, since 2003, the conflict in the Darfur region of Sudan has killed at least 300,000 people and displaced more than 2,500,000, according to the United Nations;

Whereas, on July 22, 2004, the Senate declared, “the atrocities unfolding in Darfur, Sudan, are genocide”, and on September 9, 2004, then-Secretary of State Colin Powell testified before the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate that “genocide has occurred and may still be occurring in Darfur” and “the Government of Sudan and the Janjaweed bear responsibility”;

Whereas, on July 30, 2004, the United Nations Security Council passed Resolution 1556, imposing an arms embargo on non-governmental belligerents in Darfur, requiring “all states [to] take the necessary measures to prevent the sale or supply . . . of arms and related materiel of all types, including weapons and ammunition, military vehicles and equipment, paramilitary equipment, and spare parts for the aforementioned” to those belligerents;

Whereas, on March 29, 2005, the United Nations Security Council passed Resolution